

WESSEX NEWS

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MAY 19TH, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

The Idea of a University

(The Editor of *WESSEX* has, with Dr. Montefiore's permission, made the following extracts from an article on this subject which the former President of the College contributed to the first number of *WESSEX*).

What does a University stand for? The University stands, we should agree, for a combination of teaching and research: it exists in order to impart already acquired knowledge to others, and in order to increase knowledge, to add to the store. In no University can every branch of human knowledge be fully represented, taught and carried forward. But that is not a University in which a considerable number of such branches are not taught and carried forward. And why are they carried forward? They are primarily carried forward for their own sake, and not for any ulterior end. Or, if there is an ulterior end it is just this: to find out the truth, to make the mass of ascertained truth greater; or again, it is this: to connect truth with truth and fact with fact; or it is to make more clear the very nature of truth itself and the methods and rules by which we attain to it. Perhaps the immense complexity of knowledge to-day, and the enormous difficulties and perplexities which encompass the ultimate problems of existence, make the interdependence and hierarchy of the sciences and the unity of truth less obvious and assured to us than they were to our mediaeval ancestors; nevertheless, even for us, and even for a newcomer to the University, certain ideas—to my mind and thinking grand and true ideas—about the University and its speciality may gradually emerge. He will perceive that he is in a place where knowledge is regarded as an end in itself, and where truth—the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—is regarded as something which can be and should be sought, and which can be and should be served. He will perceive that he is in a place where nothing comes before truth, and nothing before its service and its development. Not wealth, not success, not the advancement of a party, not even the material prosperity of a nation—none of these and of many other ends, however worthy, however delectable, is the primary end here; only knowledge and truth, in their augustness, in their austerity, in their profound solemnity. And here, at the University, each branch of knowledge respects the other; each branch has its own value and its own place, its own relation to the whole and to the parts; the whole

illuminates the parts and sanctifies them. Truth and knowledge bind together the branches, and bind together their votaries and students in one devout and holy fellowship. For the service of truth is itself an aspect of religion.

Now if this fundamental idea of a University gets hold of the mind, or sinks into the mind, of any young man, even though he leave the University after three or four years, he has obtained something which may be of value to him all his life. He has seen, as it were, the concrete embodiment or presentation of the idea that knowledge and truth are desirable aims in themselves, and that they are to be sought in purity, in devotion, in sincerity, even in sacrifice. Whether the subject be mathematics or chemistry, or whether it be logic or psychology, or whether it be history or political economy—yet, be the subject what it may, and however great the difficulty, there must be no infringement of the Truth, no shrinking, no bartering, no compromise. So far as calmness and detachment and sincere devotion to Truth are concerned, the spirit of the mathematician must be the spirit of the historian and the spirit of the professor of Moral economy: the professor of Moral Philosophy will be as far removed from passion and bitterness as the professor of Chemistry or Conchology. And however removed, as it would seem, these subjects are from one another, the common spirit, the common service, unite all men of research, and all the teachers and the seekers, with one another. One temple, one devotion, bind them together. Who is great at the University? Not the rich or the poor; not the high born or the low born. Nothing counts but wisdom, learning, sincere service to the one cause; the cause of knowledge and of truth.

For many reasons such conceptions and such facts seem to me of great importance at the present time. Outside the University there are other ideas: material prosperity, success, power, the advancement of sections, parties, localities, nations. There may be much to be said for one and for all. But there is something greater than all these; Truth is greater, Beauty is greater, Righteousness is greater. The University has its relations with Beauty and Righteousness, in more ways than one. But I will not speak of these, nor of the valid inter-connection of these three greatnesses with one another, or with a Fourth which unites them all. Let the young man carry away with him from the University a devotion to truth,

a recollection of certain material buildings, if you will, where a number of men are gathered together in the service—the humble, the austere, the passionate and passionless, service—of Truth. Such a one may all his life become less susceptible to one-sidedness and unfairness, prepossession and prejudice. . . . (I happen to write these lines the day after I heard a striking sermon on the dangers of mass suggestion to which such modern influences as the Press, the Cinema, or Broadcasting may make the men of to-day peculiarly liable. The preacher held that the only adequate resistance force for such dangers was religion. He may be right. But the

influence of a University, which is greater and purer than the practice of any individual, may also be a remedy. It may also provide a resistant force). . . . As the man who has left the University of Wessex reads the Newspaper which represented the ideas of his political party—represents these ideas, perhaps, with power and attractiveness—as he reads the *Daily Herald* or the *Daily Mail* (please observe the alphabetical order), he may not be inclined, or perhaps, not inclined but compelled, to say to himself "is this fair, is this one-sided, is this prejudiced, is this true?"

C. G. Montefiore.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, May 19th, 1936.

Offices:
STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

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EDITORIAL.

We have been led of late to consider the question of the policy of this paper as regards its more serious side. It has been said with justice that the tone of its articles is critical of College institutions and activities, or rather that the criticism has been almost wholly destructive: this statement is we feel true, but one of which we need not necessarily be ashamed. It may be argued with some truth that the destructiveness of the early part of the French Revolution was at least as valuable a contribution to civilisation as the attempts at planning of the following years; similarly the function of this newspaper, apart from giving information, may be regarded as that of a prod.—and a prod is by no means as ignoble an instrument as may at first appear. We are not yet—thank God—at the age when we should sit back and say "God's in His heaven, all's right with the world" and it should be realised that destructive critics, so called, have often a better realisation of the good that lies in the institutions they criticise, than those who, if vocal at all, merely signify assent. If there is one feature of Union affairs upon which all are agreed it is that all members do not take a sufficiently active part in it. If by diatribes of varying degrees of virility we can stir any of this more or less inert mass into activity we shall not have failed completely. Further, any newspaper which occupies its space by being "nice" to all and sundry is not likely to be saleable among students, nor is it likely to be of any great value to the College except in ensuring a comfortable feeling all round.

* * * *

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

DR. MONTEFIORE

In recognition of the great work done for the College by its late President, a portrait of Dr. Montefiore by William Rothenstein was presented to the College at a meeting of the Court of Governors on Monday.

Very few of us have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Montefiore by more than hearsay, yet the unanimity of opinion expressed by all who came into contact with him—not merely as regards his generosity, since such is the comparatively easy honour of the wealthy—but in connection with his great labours for the College, and those who knew his great scholarship and lovable nature, will ensure that he will always be honoured among us.

Lord Mottistone in accepting the gift on behalf of the College said, "All that he did, all that he thought, all that he said, had been in the cause of tolerance, kindness, mercy, truth, and the advancement of education." We are fortunate in having had as President, one who so nobly fulfilled the duties of such a post and made of them not a mere ornament but an integral part of the College.

This is not good enough. This book shows that all types of students are eager to do something to help towards a solution of our problems. The N.U.S. has made a good start in collecting these opinions, but it is time that they sat down to work out some concrete plans by which students can strengthen their position and make their weight felt in the world, instead of leading an artificial, Peter Pan-like, extended childhood.

YOUNG MINDS FOR OLD.

(Fourteen Young University Writers On Modern Problems. Edited by Lincoln Ralphs, President of the National Union of Students.—Frederick Muller, Ltd. 5/-).

A short review of this book should serve several useful purposes. It is an aim of 'Wessex News,' I believe, to help those who are not in close touch with the University world to get to know something of what students of to-day are thinking. I advise any such readers to obtain a copy of this book; it will give them an extensive view of different types of university thinkers and the ways they propose to tackle the problems which face them.

To students I give the same advice. We may have spent a great deal of our time listening to debates and speeches, but there are still spheres of university life of which we are ignorant; for which we 'have no time.' Obtain this book and consider it at leisure. If you are a Socialist read what W. Moelwyn Merchant of Cardiff has to say about social services and J. E. Yates of Manchester about the S.C.M.; if you are a Conservative, read what John Cornford of Cambridge has to say on Communism and Noël Hartnett of Dublin on 'Freedom for the Free State.' Other essays deal with such topics as Athletics, 'Our Elders and Ourselves,' Conservatism, Morals, Women, Scots Nationalism, etc.

A third purpose which this book serves is to show that at last the N.U.S. is becoming aware that arranging trips across Ireland is not a sufficient justification for their existence. Lincoln Ralphs is to be congratulated on collecting this material; it covers a wide field; it is all sincerely written with common sense and no heroics. Ralphs himself concludes the book with a graphic survey of 'The International Scene'; he states that escapism is not enough and appeals for a wider international outlook and sympathy. "Until that has been done, above the rattle of guns and the roaring of armament machines, we may hear the bitter jest of Shakespeare's Puck."

"Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

(continued on previous column)

THE ENGLISH:

ARE THEY HUMAN?

What is the chief characteristic of an Englishman? The newly-arrived foreign students are unanimous—his humour. They like what one described as 'English humour, which is free from sarcasm and irony, and the natural laughter which follows it.' This is closely connected with his optimism, his healthy but exaggerated love of all kinds of sport, and his ability to argue politically without resorting to fists, knives or guns. The English know how to enjoy themselves—except their food. They have no respect for food. They devour it; they eat it too often; but do not attach any importance to it. In fact eating to them is a habit. They eat only to live, and allow their meals to split up the day too much.

Fortunately they are good hosts, and they treat foreigners well wherever they meet them, although their natural assumption that a foreign guest can almost immediately acclimatise himself to their unusual ways is likely to embarrass the poor foreigner. Perhaps this is due to their natural feeling of superiority, which makes them unconsciously great nationalists without really showing their "inwardly felt pride."

However, they do not know how to work hard in College, for although the Halls of Residence are excellent in helping comradeship, they have worked to a great extent by allowing the students to pay social calls at all hours of the day and night. They do not spend their spare time improving their minds, but in the Common Room, in listening to jazz, in reading detective or adventure stories, or in reading newspapers which consider sensational murders more important than world affairs.

(continued on page 12, column 2)

THE FLAGRANT MOMENT.

BUTTONS.

What's this smiling face that greets me at the College door? This ray of sunshine on the threshold of this Hall of Lore? Oh! it lights the humdrum working day in library or class and it lights on all and sundry, as in and out they pass. How nice this wicked world would be, if every dreary day were sped along by smiles like this upon its weary way! So let us all remember then to smile and smile and smile, and help each other, like lame dogs, o'er each and every stile, with essays and with terminals, with labs and lecture-notes, and with tutorial interviews and, once a year, with votes! And let us, while we have the chance, all study day by day the little author of that smile and every morning say: "How pleasant, when we enter this great departmental store of Learning, to be greeted by bright Buttons at the door!"
Sympathy Hardt-Veldt.

FRIDAY, MAY 22nd

The English Classical Players
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ATHLETIC UNION.

Dull Cricket & Triumphant Swimming

Wallace's Fine Form in U.A.U. Sprint

UNIVERSITY SPORTS AT THE WHITE CITY.

In the face of new records in the discus, the shot, the javelin, the high jump and the furlong, and a winning total of over 70 points by Oxford, Southampton's achievement of 3 points for a fourth place in the 100 yards may seem slight. But we suggest that this was most gratifying. Wallace is young, inexperienced and, until Saturday, unknown. In his heat of the 100 on Saturday he beat Dondelinger (London) and Loader (Cambridge), and finished close up to Holmes (Manchester), who will surely represent England at Berlin. In the final, despite the nervous tension of three false starts, after which Hunt (Liverpool) and Hintze (London) got suspiciously quickly away, Wallace was always well in the running and had he not momentarily mistaken the finishing line would have finished even closer to the Olympic probabilities, Holmes and Pennington (Oxford), than he did. His running was beautifully compact and economical, and more attention to his arm action should add yards on to his speed. He showed that, without competition and experience, he is in the first flight of university sprinters. He beat not only Dondelinger and Loader, but also Hintze and Pearson (Glasgow), and was morally victor over Hunt. Wallace should soon represent the U.A.U., and before he leaves us may win the sprint title. He did extremely well against men whose established reputation is a better measure of his performance than the times of his races, each run against an unusually strong wind.

On Friday, Wallace had been less successful in his 220 heat, when he finished a close third. He ran well, but did not use his arms enough, and drawn in the outside lane he found the notoriously sharp bend of the White City too much for him. Morton in the discus threw about 105 feet in very good style beating many other competitors, but his throwing lacked power.

The most gallant performance was Bagwell's in the 3 miles on Saturday. In sweatiest heat and against men who set a 4.58 first mile pace, he finished the race eighth after five runners had fallen out. The winner's time was 14.58.

CRICKET NOTES.

This week has been disappointing. On Wed. last the 1st XI was defeated by King's College, London, by over 100 runs. College batting revealed lack of practice, and the side was all out for 80 (Robinson 27). Only White and Bignell bowled at all well.

On Saturday, against Exeter, we had visions of an exciting match, but it was one of the dullest matches we have experienced. Exeter started batting at 11.30, and by lunch, 1.30, the score was 60! They continued batting till 4, when the score was 145 for 6 wickets. As the match was due to finish at 5.30, College was given exactly 65 minutes in which to score nearly 150 runs. The match fizzled out in a tame draw, the score being 55 for 2. White 21, Downer 17, not out.

The slow-scoring of Exeter was exceedingly bad cricket and flattered our bowlers. Even after lunch when there were 9 wickets to fall, they did not quicken the rate of scoring. Again White bowled well, 21 overs, 6 maidens, 33 runs, 3 wickets, and Bignell bowled nearly all day 29 overs, 6 maidens, 58 runs, 3 wickets.

The date and venue of the replay has not been decided.

There is an attractive home fixture on Wed. next, Southsea, a strong Portsmouth side, beginning 2.30.

(Editor's Note.—Some critics have used this disappointing U.A.U. game as an excuse for "abandoning" Exeter and U.A.U. fixtures and playing instead "sporting" Oxford and Cambridge Colleges. This is absurdly unfair to our good friends from Exeter, and makes a mountain out of a molehill. Safety first tactics crop up in all games occasionally. We well remember for instance the most recent cricket and rugby fixtures between Oxford and Cambridge. We treasure our existing university fixture list, and only hope to be strong enough for the matches it entails.

SWIMMING.

On Saturday, at 6.15 p.m., the swimming teams met Goldsmith's at the Corporation Baths in the first match of the term and both the teams won their matches. The men's events were keenly contested, although Russell, Ellis

and Cochrane won their respective races by easy margins. Goldsmith's took first and second place in the Diving, but U.C.S. won the 200 yds. relay race by a clear half length. Thus on the swimming U.C.S. led by 2 points. The women were not so fortunate. Miss West won the Diving and the relay team took a clear seven points on Goldsmith's disqualification, and thus won their match. The polo match provided the greatest thrill. Goldsmith's scored the first goal, but shortly Russell scored for U.C.S. At half-time the score was unchanged. In the second half Cochrane put the College ahead with a good shot after some clever cross-passing. Goldsmith's made several attempts to score from long shots and were unlucky not to do so. Shortly before time Shepherd scored from a well-placed shot. Considering that they were playing for the first time against an experienced team the College are to be congratulated upon this victory.

Women's Result—1, U.C.S.—25 pts.; 2, Goldsmith's—20 pts.

Men's Result—1, U.C.S.—31 pts.; 2, Goldsmith's—29 pts.

Water Polo—U.C.S. 4 goals, Goldsmith's 1 goal.

TENNIS

1st VI v Cambrians. Home.

Lost 3—6.

On Saturday the 1st team lost to a more experienced team from the Cambrians.

The first pair, Collins and Shaikh, lost to the opposing first pair in a closely contested match, after winning the first set. Greater decisiveness in the crucial games of both the second and third sets, might have resulted in our winning this match. The firm volleying of Collins and the clever passing shots of the ambidextrous Shaikh were the main features of this pair, who won both their other games.

The Cambrians first pair were too strong for both our other pairs. Our second pair, puzzled by the slowing down of the game by their opposite numbers, lost to them; however, they beat the Cambrians third pair.

Our third pair were unfortunate in winning none of their games. Hume, from last season's Balliol 2nd VI was introduced. He is at

(continued from preceding column)

present unsteady, owing to lack of practice, but he should combine with Pew to make an excellent third pair. Both these men have attractive styles, with good forcing shots.

The women's 2nd team, on the grass courts, lost to Portsmouth Training College by 3—6. Our first pair were undefeated.

On Wednesday next the 1st are away to the Arcadian Spartans in a mixed match, whilst a mixed 2nd team are visiting Portsmouth Municipal. On Saturday next the 1st men's and women's teams both meet Exeter in U.A.U. games on our Courts.

Students v Staff.

After crushingly defeating the College 2nd team last year the Staff were given a fixture against the 1st, who proved much too strong. It was an enjoyable contest and ended 9—3. The Staff men pairs were all beaten. Of the Staff women pairs only Miss Hales and Miss Loader won. The other two Staff victories were won by Dr. and Mrs. Lawson who defeated Collins and Miss Pavard, and by Mr. and Mrs. Grant. It is probably very difficult for the Staff to find twelve players of sufficient calibre for a match of this kind. Smaller teams with each pair playing all its rivals might be more evenly matched.

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STORM OVER ASIA

About three hundred people, from both College and town, saw the Socialist Society's second film-show on Friday last—Pudovkin's "Storm over Asia." It can be counted as a successful evening, in spite of some delays in getting going. The film tells of how a European interventionist force against the Bolsheviks tried to set up a supposed descendant of Genghis Khan as a puppet-prince in Mongolia, and finds he is more like Genghis Khan than they had expected. We shall probably remember longest the superb satirical sequences dealing with the British officers and their women, especially the visit to the Lama: the direction and photography here were among the best we have ever seen. The sections dealing with the revolutionary army were enthusiastically welcomed by at least some of the audience. We can praise, too, the innovation of the musical accompaniment, which raised such wonder and doubt when announced upon the tickets: appropriately enough it consisted mostly of Beethoven, and finished with the "International." At the end a fairly good collection was taken for next summer's student-unemployed camps.

We hear that the Socialist society is planning its third film for later this term.

WANTED—Alarm Clock, guaranteed to wake. For Sale or on Lease: preferably on Lease.—
LESLIE, W. C. R.

(Continued from page 11, column 10)

Although the English are great respecters of freedom, no English student would think of starting a revolution to protest against the Gate regulations, and they allow their traditions to guide them like railway lines in the right direction. But they are free to sing in the "Gods" at the Grand, to make unseemly noises after meals, to wear tattered gowns, and free for the majority of men and women to regard each other with a "brother-sister" attitude.

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Correspondence.

To the Editor "Wessex News."

Sir,

The editorial board of *Wessex* much appreciates your paragraph on its recently published number, but I, as Art Editor, must acknowledge a palpable hit on the score of tail pieces, which we have used, alas! far too often. The remedy lies largely with you and our readers and I trust that your remarks and this letter will serve to direct that talent which is so obvious on notice-boards to *Wessex*. I shall be delighted to receive designs for tail pieces (suitable for reproduction as line-blocks) or drawings, paintings, photographs, indeed all forms of graphic art, suitable for reproduction either as line or half-tone blocks for half or full page illustrations.

Yours, etc.,

H. W. Lawton,
Art Editor, *Wessex*.

To the Editor "Wessex News,"

Dear Sir,

The questions of rearmament and of our attitude towards the strengthening of the armed forces are of immediate importance to all students. Official statements tell us that we must re-arm and to that end must enrol in the armed forces on account of the weakness of our potential contribution to collective security and in face of German rearmament.

This is an argument which should not convince a single student unless he is prepared to believe that the government is actively following a policy of collective security. We must ask in what way is the piling up of armaments by this country going to contribute to this security. We may well feel doubtful in the face of the past record of the Government in foreign policy, and of its failure to co-operate in any system of pooling the forces of the League, which was a principal cause of its failure in the Abyssinian dispute and which contributed to the denunciation of Locarno by Germany.

We are asked to give the government a free hand to use the increased armaments only for "defence." We can surely do so only if they are supervised by the League and are genuine contributions to a joint force under its control.

We raise this matter in your columns on account of its urgency and of the prevalence of muddled thinking such as is shown in the letter of "Pacifist" in your issue of May 5th.

Yours, etc.,

Two Socialists.

The Election Campaign

We are supposed to be, and indeed in many respects are, a truly corporate institution: again we are supposed, though the supposition does not bear too close examination, to be a community of reasonably intelligent and educated people; yet how comes it that our Union elections are so far from perfect? It would seem that either we are not what we suppose or that the desiderata for an efficient democracy are something more than this.

What can be more absurd than the gathering together of the Union or of particular faculties to vote for people of whom they may know nothing more than their names, and as to whose policy they are even more ignorant. If the best people are elected, as indeed sometimes happens, it is due more to good fortune and the energy of a few people than anything else. Assuming we fulfil our Union duties we even vote for officials of the Chess Club, of which form of activity we may know as much as of the finances of Outer Mongolia or the appalling sanitation in Macedonia. To Mongolians and Macedonians these questions doubtless bulk large, but their urgency will hardly be apparent to the world at large: similarly with the Chess Club.

This is not to suggest that in seizing on Chess as our *Ecce* we have any particular animus to vent, but rather that we feel that much though the Union has of late advanced there is still a number of loopholes in its working. What is needed is that electorates must be better informed through the work of the Union and Faculty Societies and that elections should either be of obvious concern to all members of the Union, or that officials of some Societies should not be elected by them.

The Results of the Faculty Elections were as follows:—

S.C. Representatives.

Arts—D. B. Barker, Miss K. Donnelly, M. Hoyle, Miss M. Gardener.

Economics—R. E. Wile.

Science—A. W. Ridgewell, V. G. Robson, Miss J. M. West, G. A. A. Moir.

Engineers—H. H. Miles.

Officers of the Faculty Societies.

Arts—Chairman, D. B. Barker. Vice-Chairman, Miss M. Gardener.

Secretary, Miss G. Mead.

Science—

Chairman, A. W. Ridgewell. Vice-Chairman, V. G. Robson. Secretary, H. T. Robinson.

Engineers—

Chairman, H. H. Miles. Vice-Chairman, R. E. H. Pew. Secretary, I. Newton-Smith.

The election for the Presidents of Union Societies takes place next Friday. Voting in the S.C. office from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Calendar.

Tuesday, May 19th.

Incorp. Assoc. of Asst. Masters in the Music St., at 12.0.
Halls and Refectory Comm, at 2.30.

Wednesday, May 20th.

Works Comm.: at 4.30

Thursday, May 21st:

Socialist Soc.: Dr. Quinn on "The United Front in France and Spain," in Room 5, at 12.0.

Friday, May 22nd.

L.N.U.: Clifton Robbins, Esq., of the International Labour Office, in the Music St., at 12.0. Students' Orch.: Practice in the Music St., at 5.0

Hants and I.O.W. Architectural Assoc.: Lecture in the Botany Th., at 6.30.

English Classical Players: in Shaw's "Arms and the Man," in the Hall, at 8.15. Tickets 1/6 (reserved), 1/- See notices.

Russian Liturgical Music: at Romsey Abbey, at 3.0 and 8.0. See notices.

Saturday, May 23rd.

English Assoc.: Excursion to Chichester at 10.30.

W.E.A. and Extra-Mural Board: A Saturday School on "The New Humanism." Open Lectures on "The Population Crisis," at 3.0 and on "Planning for Survival," at 5.45 by Dr. Enid Charles, M.A. Fee 6d.; with tea, 1/3. See notices.

Sunday, May 24th.

Collegiate Services: in S. Mary's S. Stoneham, at 9.40. Rev. A. W. Chute, M.A., Vicar of Highfield.

Monday, May 25th.

General Purposes Comm.: at 2.30.

Gramophone Club: Records from Wagner Operas in the Music St., at 12.0

Tuesday, May 26th.

Friday, June 5th.

Symphony Concert in the Hall, at 8.30. See notices.

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